HF Happenings

No 650 | **March 2015**

5 MHz activity weekend

The South African Radio League 5 MHz activity weekend will be held on 28 and 29 March. The first slot will be run each day from 06:00 - 08:00 Central African Time with the second slot from 18:00 to 22:00 Central African Time. More details to follow.

CQ WPX SSB Contest

The CQ WPX SSB Contest is a 48-hour event over the weekend of the 28 and 29 March with activity on 160 to 10 metres. Read all the information at www.cqwpx.com/

Worked ZS Grid Squares

On Tuesday 31 March, I will be driving from Bloemfontein to Sandstone Estates in Ficksburg with the SA Armour Museum for 2015 Stars of Sandstone (2 to 12 April). I will travel from KG30 via KG31 to KG41 (in fact our accommodation is on the KG31/KG41 line!)

Then on Thursday 2 April, Carina and I are travelling to Rawsonville for the christening of our grandson. We will drive from KG41, through KG31, KG30, KF39, KF29, KF28, KF18 and KF17. We are sleeping over in Beaufort West (KG17hq) and I may participate in the 80 metre QSO Party. On Friday, we will leave from KF17hq and drive through KF07, KF06 and JF96.

We return on Monday 6 April driving through JF96, KF06, KF07, KF17, KF18, KF28, KF29, KF39, KG30, KG31 and KG41.

While at Sandstone, I could drive to Lesotho to activate KG31/KG41 as 7P8DG – if there is interest.

I am also looking at activating a summit on the GMA programme. More detail to follow.

If you need any of these grids, send me an e-mail to zs4bs@iaru-r1.org and we can arrange a sked. Carina and I listen to music in the car; we chat and stop now and then for Geocaching, so I do not monitor the radio the whole time.

South African Radio League Autumn 80 m QSO Party

The aim of the 80 metre QSO Party is to create an interest in and activity on the 80 m band. It is a phone only contest, which will be on the air from 17:00 to 20:00 UTC on Thursday 2 April 2015. Only frequencies in the segment 3 603 to 3 650 and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz may be used.

The exchange is your call sign, a RS report and your name. You earn 10 points for every contact with a South African station and 15 points for every contact with a station outside South Africa.

Log sheets must be submitted by 9 April 2015 to zs5lp@vodamail.co.za.

The Autumn RaDAR Challenge

(okay, Spring RaDAR Challenge if you are in the northern hemisphere!)

The RaDAR "Challenge" is a unique event aimed at promoting the use of Rapidly Deployable Amateur Radio stations. This challenge is for all licensed radio amateurs *not* limited to South Africa. A RaDAR operator can take part in any of the three defined cat-

Get on the **RaDAR**....and GO!

egories (see point 7) which may be changed at any time during the challenge. The points system is so structured as to encourage portable RaDAR operations, especially moveable RaDAR stations. Moveable RaDAR stations rely on fixed and portable stations as a point of contact using channelised frequencies. "Search and pounce" techniques are also allowed.

The RaDAR Challenge will be on the air from 00:00 to 23:59 UTC on Saturday 4 April - 24 hours will give equal opportunity to the international community of RaDAR operators. RaDAR operators can define their own operating time schedule or remain active for the full 24 hours.

All amateur bands are allowed including cross band contacts via amateur radio satellites. Modes – CW, SSB, AM, FM or any legal digital mode. QSOs via terrestrial repeaters will NOT be allowed. To see the suggested HF calling frequencies, visit http://zs6bne.wordpress.com/2013/03/06/radar-calling-frequencies/. The WARC bands can be used considering this is a RaDAR Challenge and not a contest as such. It provides better opportunities for RaDAR contacts during difficult propagation conditions.

Recommended digital modes frequencies – Refer to the South African Radio League Contest Manual, General Rule #15.

The RaDAR challenge requires more than a minimalistic information exchange. Accurate information exchange is considered more important than a large QSO count. The exchange is call sign, name, RS(T) report, QTH and grid locator. Note the grid locator can change as RaDAR operators are allowed to move position at any time. The grid locator of six characters is acceptable but should preferably be accurate to 10 characters for higher position accuracy. Smartphone applications are generally used to establish more than a 6-character grid locator.

March 2015
1 - SARL Hamnet Contest
7 and 8 – ARRL International DX Contest
8 - International Women's Day (not in South Africa); Cape Argus PnP Cycle Tour
13 - Africa Scout Day
14 and 15 - Africa All Modes Contest; RSGB Commonwealth Contest
17 - St Patrick's Day
18 to 24 – Scifest Africa, Grahamstown
20 - Autumn Equinox; SARL 90 Open Day for ICASA and the Media
21 - Human Rights Day; Hindi New Year; SARL 90 Open Day; Oude Kraal Mutton and Beerfest
21 and 22 - SARL VHF/UHF Contest
22 – World Water Day
23 - World Meteorological day
25 - Inland Schools close
28 – SARL@Home – DXing and Contesting with Chris, ZS6EZ
28 and 29 – CQ WPX SSB; SARL 5 MHz Activity Weekend
29 – Palm Sunday

April

1 - Coastal Schools close; 61st Annual Poisson d'Avril Contest
2 - SARL 80 m QSO Party
2 to 12 - Stars of Sandstone Festival, Ficksburg
3 - Good Friday
3 to 11 – KKNK, Oudtshoorn
4 - RaDAR Challenge; Two Oceans Marathon
4 to 11 – Pesach
5 - Easter Sunday
6 – Family day
9 - Closing date May RAE
11 - Autumn QRP Contest
13 - All Schools open
17 to 19 – SARL National Convention
18 – World Amateur Radio Day
22 - Earth Day
25 - HABEX-10 launch
27 - Freedom Day

If working non-participating stations, call sign, name, RST and QTH is acceptable.

You score 1 point per QSO. Individual QSOs – per mode, per band, per satellite, per call sign. If the moving RaDAR station has moved the required distance (see point 7) contact can be made with a previously worked station, again.

The following multipliers are applicable to determine the final score. If category/mode of transport changes were made during the challenge, than calculate accordingly.

X 1 – RaDAR Fixed station (At home or in another building)

X 2 – RaDAR Field station (Portable – away from home)

X 3 – Moving RaDAR station – See modes of transport below.

Modes of transport and required movement distances (moving RaDAR stations only) -

- Vehicles, motorcycles and motorboats, etc., (motorised transport) – 6 km
- Bicycles – 2 km
- On foot and paddle canoes – 1 km
- Wheelchairs – 500 m
- Aeronautical mobile stations are considered moving stations and can communicate at *any* convenient time.

Note: Moving RaDAR stations can move at any time but are required to move to the next destination after five contacts have been made from the present location. The move needs to cover the required distance before further contacts are allowed to be made. This requirement tests the ability to rapidly redeploy your amateur radio field station.

Bonus points (All categories) –

- Five (5) points (the equivalent of five QSOs) for a minimum of one satellite or any digital modes QSO involving a computer, smartphone or digital modes device. (For clarity thereafter 1 point per Satellite / Digital modes QSO).
- Five (5) points for the first successful same continent RaDAR to RaDAR QSO (as may be confirmed by the extensive information exchange.
- Five (5) points for the first intercontinental (DX) QSO
- Ten (10) points for the first successful inter continental (DX) RaDAR to RaDAR QSO (As may be confirmed by the extensive information exchange).

Log sheets must be submitted by 14 April and sent by e-mail to edleighton@gmail.com.

Note: A photo(s) of the station (JPG format) MUST accompany every log entry. A photo is required for each new location that moveable stations visit. These photos are used to promote amateur radio and the RaDAR concept showing where amateur radio can be used to communicate from and in the many different ways.

Successful transmissions of new DARC Radio and EARN on 49 m SW band

Last weekend saw the successful launch of two new Amateur Radio related shows on the 49 m broadcast band.

DARC Radio was transmitted at 10:00 UTC on Sunday from a 100 Kw transmitter in Austria, it was then repeated on Monday at 16:00 UTC from the Amateur owned 10 Kw AM transmitter of Channel 292 on 6 070 KHz from Ingolstadt, Bavaria, Germany.

The English Amateur Radio News (EARN) program preceded the DARC Radio program on Monday at 15:00 UTC.

Reports have been received from around Europe (UK, Holland, Sweden, Germany, Austria) - all positive on both reception strength and content. We even had a long distance listener in Malaysia listening via an SDR in Holland.

Please note times will change when we change the clocks moving into Summer time, so please check the website www.channel292.de for the updated schedule for the next few weeks. We also plan to move EARN to after the repeat of the DARC Radio show on Mondays, so propagation may be better at that time for the show.

E-mail addresses for inquiries and reception reports are radio@darc.de for the DARC Radio programme and EnglishARNews@gmail.com for EARN.

DXCC News

The following operations have been accepted and approved by the ARRL DXCC Desk for DXCC credit - K1N - Navassa Island, January/February 2015 and VP8DOZ - South Georgia Island, February/April 2015.

African Islands

IOTA frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Madeira Islands, CQ3/CT9. Matt, DJ8OG, will be active as CQ3L during the CQ WPX SSB Contest (28 and 29 March) as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via DJ6QT. Look for Matthias to be active before and after the contest as CT9/DJ8OG. QSL via his home call sign, by the Bureau (preferred) or direct. Visit the CR3L Santana, Madeira Island (AF-014), web page at http://www.cq3l.de

Seychelles, S7. Giovanni "John," IZ2DPX, will be active possibly as S79DPX (pending) from the Seychelles (AF-024) between 9 and 23 August. Activity will be on 80 to 6 metres and all modes. QSL via his home call sign.
        For more details and updates, see http://iz2dpx.jimdo.com

African DX

Malawi, 7Q. The second team of the 7QAA DXpedition (SSB, RTTY, some CW and PSK team) is now active until 1 April. Operators are John, GW4SKA, Sam, ZS6BRZ, Dick, K9APW, Chris, G8APB, Marco, HB9OCR, and Alex, DD5ZZ. The team will operate four stations on the air on 160 to 6 metres. The SSB team will also participate in the CQ WPX SSB Contest. Daily free LoTW and ClubLog uploads will be provided, and they will use the band-slot tracking feature in ClubLog to promote a competitive spirit amongst the DX fraternity. The log is available at https://secure.clublog.org/expeditions/7QAA
        They feel that due to the extended 20 day operating period there will be ample time to work the "little pistols" as well as the band-slot chasers. QSL Manager is Dick, N7RO. For more details, see their web page at www.malawidx.org/index.html
        Just a reminder that this DXpedition is dedicated in memory of Charles Frost aka Frosty, K5LBU, who became a Silent Key on 14 February.

Eritrea, E3. The members of the SEISA/ Foundation for Global Children, E30FB, are on their way home. Paul, N6PSE, states: "E30FB went QRT at 09:00 UTC on Tuesday.
        The team is now in Istanbul about to make their final travels home. We are very happy that we were able to make approximately 62 500 contacts and to provide an ATNO for many DXers around the world – EXCLUDING AFRICA, ask many ZS operators how they struggled to get a contact with E30FB!
        The E30FB team really enjoyed bringing you this rare activation of Eritrea. Murphy was a constant companion on this DXpedition and influenced our antennas and computers. We beat Murphy back each time with skill and determination. You will be surprised to know that almost all CW was sent by hand keys."
        Remember, QSL Manager is Tim, M0URX. If you wish to make a donation via PayPal, their address is jh1ajt@fgc.or.jp (note: please do not send e-mail to this address, it is for PayPal purposes only). Their Web site is at http://eritreaproject.net

History this week
Starting Monday 23 March 2015

1639 - America's first canal to provide industrial water power was began in Dedham, Mass.
1791 - The French National Assembly chose that a metre would be a 1/10 000 000 of the distance between the north pole and the equator.
1792 - In Paris, at the place de Grève, the guillotine was used for the first time on a human, the highwayman Nicolas Jacques Pelletier
1821 - Bauxite, an aluminium ore, was discovered in southern France near the village of Les Baux by Pierre Berthier

1885 - Commercial production began of George Eastman's flexible, paper-backed photographic film

1899 - Guglielmo Marconi transmitted across the English Channel from Boulogne, France, to Dover, England

1903 - Regular news service began between New York and London on Marconi's wireless

1905 - The radio fax was patented in the US by Cornelius Ehret of Rosemont, Pennsylvania

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 23 to 30 March 2015

SKCC Sprint
00:00 - 02:00 UTC 25 March
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: (none)
Exchange: RST and state, province or country, name and SKCC no or power
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO; Bonus Points: 5 points per Centurion member QSO per band; 10 points per Tribune member QSO per band; 25 points per QSO with SKCC club call (K9SKC) per band
Multipliers: Each state, province or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 27 March 2015
E-mail log summary to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/submit-display.php?submit_id=99
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 - 02:30 UTC 25 March
Mode: CW
Bands: 40 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 26 March 2015
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 25 March and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 26 March
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 28 March 2015
Post log summary at:
http://www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.cwops.org/cwt.html

UKEICC 80 m Contest
20:00 - 21:00 UTC 25 March
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80 m Only
Classes: Single Op Connected - open, low or QRP; Single Op Unconnected - open, low or QRP
Max power: Open: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: 4-Character grid square
QSO Points: 1 point per 500 km; multiply QSO points by 2 if low power station; multiply QSO points by 4 if QRP station
Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 22:00 UTC 25 March 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)

Upload log at: http://logs.ukeicc.com/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at: http://www.ukeicc.com/which-contest/contest-rules/ukeicc-80_m-contests-rules

QRP Fox Hunt

01:00 - 02:30 UTC 27 March

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: Single Op - fox or hound

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 28 March 2015

E-mail logs to: (see rules)

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/winter_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 27 March

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 29 March 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

http://www.3830scores.com/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 27 March

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 29 March 2015

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

http://www.3830scores.com/

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

CQ WPX SSB Contest

00:00 UTC 28 March to 23:59 UTC 29 March

Mode: SSB

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Single Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Assisted All Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Single Op Assisted Single Band - QRP, low or high - tribander or rookie; Multi-Single; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi

Max operating hours: Single Op: 36 hours with off times of at least 60 minutes; Multi-Op: 48 hours

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RS and serial no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 6 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO with different continent; 3 points per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO with different continent; 2 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO with same continent different country; 1 point per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO with same continent different country; 4 points per 160, 80 and 40 m QSO between stations in NA; 2 points per 20, 15 and 10 m QSO between stations in NA; 1 point per QSO with same country

Multipliers: Prefixes once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 3 April 2015

E-mail logs to: ssb@cqwpx.com

Upload log at:

http://www.cqwpx.com/logcheck/

Mail logs to: SSB WPX Contest, PO Box 481, New Carlisle, OH 45344, USA

Find rules at:

http://www.cqwpx.com/rules.htm

FOC QSO Party
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 28 March
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF
Classes: Single Op
Exchange: FOC-Member: RST, name and member no; non-Members: RST and name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: FOC-Member: Score = Total QSOs/Total Member QSOs; non-Member: Score = Total Member QSOs
Submit logs by: 11 April 2015
E-mail log summary to: kz5d@aol.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://g4foc.org/qsoparty/

Next Week's Contests

QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 1 April
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 1 April and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 2 April
SARL 80 m QSO Party, 17:00 - 20:00 UTC 2 April
NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (CW), 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (SSB), 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (FM) and 21:00 - 22:00 UTC (Dig) 2 April
QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 3 April
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 3 April
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 3 April
The RaDAR Challenge, 00:00 - 23:59 UTC 4 April
15-Metre SSTV Dash Contest, 00:00 UTC 4 April to 23:59 UTC 5 April
LZ Open 40 m Sprint Contest, 04:00 – 08:00 UTC 4 April
QRP ARCI Spring QSO Party, 12:00 UTC 4 April to 23:59 UTC 5 April
Mississippi QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 4 April to 02:00 UTC 5 April
Missouri QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 4 April to 04:00 UTC and 14:00 - 20:00 UTC 5 April
SP DX Contest, 15:00 UTC 4 April to 15:00 UTC 5 April

EA RTTY Contest, 16:00 UTC 4 April to 16:00 UTC 5 April
Texas State Parks on the Air, 16:00 UTC 4 April to 0159Z 5 April
Montana QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 4 April to 05:59 UTC 5 April
PODXS 070 Club PSK 31 Flavours Contest, 12:00 – 18:00 local 5 April
RSGB RoPoCo SSB, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 5 April
RSGB 80 m Club Championship, CW, 19:00 - 20:30 UTC 6 April
ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 7 April

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newsline, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL DX Newsletter, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC News, DxCoffee and the Islands, Castles & Portable Operations Bulletin

Adele, ZS5APT, and Lucas, ZS6ACT, operating SOTA from the Free State. Photo by Sid, ZS6AYC